sizeable population of Indian emigrant workers have designated officers to deal with community/labour welfare matters including the problems faced by the Indian emigrant workers which are brought to their notice. The Missions through such officers extend support in all such matters, wherever necessary.

Applications for emigration clearance

1100. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are thousands of applications pending for emigration clearance in various Protector General offices in the country after the C.B.I. raids in the Protector-General offices; and

(b) if so, the action taken for clearance of the applications?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lacunae in Indian Immigration act, 1983

1101. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of the OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the lacunae in the Indian Immigration Act, 1983. which have led to problems being faced by Indian workers sent abroad for employment but are exploited and abused there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Emigration Act, 1983 embodies the principle/guidelines for the protection of emigrant workers. However, since the enactment came into force 23 years ago, the objective conditions of emigration have changed considerably. As such a need has been felt to transform the emigration system to make it simple and transparent, promote orderly & humane emigration and to ensure better protection and welfare of the workers through comprehensive amendments to the emigration Act, 1983. The process of amending the Act is under consideration.